

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Office of Equality Assurance
City of San José . Public Works Department
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California

MINUTES

February 11, 2008

Commissioners Present

Susan Espinoza
Emma Eljas
Anette Howell
Erik Kaeding
Kevin Lichtenberg
Jackie O'Donnell
Otila Salazar
Susan Souza
Aaron Morrow (Commissioner Emeritus)
Karl Vidt (Commissioner Emeritus)
Richard Kohl (Senior Commission Liaison)

Commissioners Absent

Mary Brown
Jeffrey Lewis

Council Liaison Present

Stephanie Holm for Councilmember Pyle

Staff Present

Steve Wing, ADA Coordinator
Amanda Lei, DOT
John Brazil, DOT

1. Call to Order

Chair Espinoza called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner Salazar, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were unanimously approved.

3. Approval of January 14, 2008 Minutes

Commissioner Kaeding provided revisions to the item #11g of the minutes. Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner Eljas, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Oral Petitions

Commissioner Emeritus Morrow reported that the Taxi Cab Task Force has been placed on hold.

5. Council Liaison Report

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Stephanie Holm reported that all the staff in the Mayor and Council offices were informed of the availability of the ADA Accessibility Handbook which is available online on the City's intranet site.

6. Chairperson Report – Susan Espinoza

Chair Espinoza reported on the Emergency Preparedness Forum provided by Councilmember Oliverio on Saturday, 2/2/08. It was well attended and good information was provided the City's Office of Emergency Services, Police and Fire departments, PG&E, and Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

7. Santa Clara County Disability Advisory Commission Liaison Report – Aaron Morrow

No report.

8. Senior Commission Liaison Report – Richard Kohl

No report.

9. Draft ADA Sidewalk Transition Plan

John Brazil provided an overview and history of this project and presented the initial draft of the ADA Transition Plan Update For Sidewalks. Mr. Brazil reminded the Commission that this was third time that he and project consultant, Logan Hopper, had made a presentation to the DAC to obtain input on improving sidewalk accessibility in San Jose. Mr. Hopper presented the highlights of the draft plan, indicating the majority of the City's intersections have been surveyed for curb ramps and the plan included a plan for surveying all the intersections in the City. Mr. Logan also pointed out that the plan included priorities for constructing new curb ramps. Both Mr. Brazil and Mr. Logan encouraged the DAC to provide them with any comments or suggestions.

Mr. Vidt asked if the plan was limited to curb ramps. Mr. Logan replied it was not limited and included all accessibility issues related to sidewalks including pedestrian signal lights. Mr. Morrow suggested that a report be prepared twice a year to track the City's progress. Mr. Brazil said that DOT was planning to do an annual report. Mr. Vidt suggested that the sidewalk plan try to incorporate the pedestrian path of travel issues caused by excessive street crowning.

10. Report on excessive street crowns at downtown intersections

Amanda Lei, Maintenance Manager for Pavement Services, from DOT presented their report, "ADA Ramps and Cross Slopes Case Study." Ms. Lei provided information about the City's street and pavement design and maintenance issues. She said the City has \$268 million in deferred maintenance costs for street maintenance. Ms. Lei said that the DOT case study found the cross slopes at the

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intersections of 3rd and 4th streets with Santa Clara streets to be beyond ADA standards. However, the preliminary cost estimates for reducing the cross slopes for these two intersections was \$332,861. Given the amount of the City's deferred maintenance costs, Ms. Lei was not sure how this project could be funded. Ms. Lei commented that there probably other intersections in the downtown and other parts of the City with this problem.

Mr. Kaeding asked if Redevelopment funds were available for this type of project. Ms. Lei was not sure and said she would look into this. Mr. Morrow stated that it is a problem that needs to be addressed and that the DAC may want to review this further to make a more specific recommendation.

11. Standing Commission Items

a. Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities

Commissioner Salazar provided a written report to the DAC concerning the Golden Guardian exercise held on November 14, 2007. Ms. Salazar observed both satisfactory and unsatisfactory assistance provided to victims with disabilities by various emergency services personnel. Ms Salazar is recommending that additional training be provided on how to better assist people with disabilities.

b. Therapeutic Services – Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Morrow reported that the Advisory Board will be attempting to update the data in the plan; the group will be seeking help from additional people; and it was suggested that the DAC help by keeping pressure on the Council by writing letters to the Council in support of the strategic plan and to maintain funding levels for the Office of Therapeutic Services.

c. VTA and Paratransit Service Issues

No report

d. Envision San José 2040

In response to Commissioner Kaeding, Mr. Wing said staff was still working on obtaining housing planning and development information from other cities.

e. DAC Workplan

Chair Espinoza reported that at future Committee of the Whole meetings, the DAC will try and prioritize which issues the Commission will work on in order to be more effective.

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12. ADA Coordinator Report

Steve Wing reported that staff was moving forward on the request to install induction loop assistive listening systems in City facilities. Background information and preliminary recommendations have been shared with City staff representing all impacted City departments, including the Library, PRNS, General Services, Airport and Public Works.

13. Announcements

- There is a Senior Walk on Saturday, 4/5/08, 6:00 a.m. at Valley Fair
- There is a Library/Park Bond Update meeting on Thursday, 2/14/08
- There is a Greenprint Subcommittee meeting on 2/12 that Chair Espinoza will attend

14. Agenda Development

No items suggested at this time.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.